

## **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

### **STAFF NOTE**

#### **Review Item:**

Report on Academic Performance for A5 and A6 Programs (Alternative Education)

#### **Applicable Statute or Regulation:**

KRS 605.110 (3) (a)-(f), KRS 158.135 (2) (a) (b) (4) 137, 505 KAR 1:080, KRS 15A.065  
KRS 158.645 (1) (3) (5), 703 KAR 5:040

#### **History/Background:**

***Existing Policy.*** 703 KAR 5:040 requires that a report be presented to the Kentucky Board of Education on the performance of A5 and A6 programs within four months of the annual public release of state assessment and accountability data. “This report shall include findings on quality of educational and other services, adequacy of academic performance growth, nonacademic growth, changes in population served by these programs, and recommended actions needed to improve conditions in and performance of these programs.”

The 2006 Kentucky Performance Report for A5 programs (Attachment A) shows significant academic deficiencies for State Agency Children. An A5 program is defined as “a district-operated and district-controlled facility... designed to provide services to at-risk populations with unique needs.” The Total Academic Index for elementary students increased in 2006 to 43.0 (slightly up from 41.3 in 2005). The Total Academic Index for middle school students was 34.5 in 2006 (exactly the same as 2005). The Total Academic Index for high school was 42.8 in 2006 reflecting slight change from 42.3 in 2005. Although there was improvement in the elementary index, academic scores remain very low for students in A5 programs. Non-Academic Indicators for A5 programs reveal significant deficiencies especially at the high school level (see chart below).

A5 Non-Academic Indicators	Elementary	Middle School	High School
Attendance	91.59	82.41	80.17
Dropout Rate	NA	3.63	35.79
Retention Rate	0.00	4.46	23.79
Successful Transition to Life	NA	NA	84.80
Non-Academic Index	93.27	90.45	75.23

The 2006 Kentucky Performance Report for A6 programs (Attachment B) also shows significant academic deficiencies for State Agency Children. An A6 program is defined as “a district-operated instructional program in a nondistrict-operated institution or school.”

The Total Academic Index for elementary students increased in 2006 to 36.1 (up from 28.7 in 2005). The Total Academic Index for middle school students was 33.1 in 2006 (down from 33.7 in 2005). The Total Academic Index for high school was 37.5 in 2006 reflecting little change from 37.3 in 2005. Although there was improvement in the elementary index, academic scores remain very low for state agency children. Non-Academic Indicators for A6 programs reveal significant deficiencies (see chart below). It is important to note that non-academic indicators for A6 programs show somewhat less significant deficits than A5 programs. Substantial numbers of youth in A6 programs are confined to Department of Juvenile Justice programs or are hospitalized for serious physical and/or emotional problems.

A6 Non-Academic Indicators	Elementary	Middle School	High School
Attendance	98.50	97.01	97.33
Dropout Rate	NA	4.93	19.04
Retention Rate	1.72	1.37	4.14
Successful Transition to Life	NA	NA	58.82
Non-Academic Index	98.46	97.27	76.68

**Impact on Getting to Proficiency:**

Increasing numbers of Kentucky students are receiving educational services in alternative education (A5 and A6) programs. The quality of education services the students receive in these programs is increasingly important.

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**Deputy Commissioner**

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**Interim Commissioner of Education**

**Date:**

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